

**REMARKS**

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action dated July 19, 2006 (hereinafter, the "Office Action").

Claims 29-31, 33, 34 and 36-41 are pending in the present application. Claims 38-41 stand rejected. Claim 37 is objected to on the basis of a formality. Applicants appreciate the indication that Claims 29-31, 33, 34 and 36 are allowed. In an effort to advance prosecution, Applicants have placed the present application in condition for allowance. More specifically, Applicants have canceled Claims 38-41 without prejudice, and Claim 37 has been amended to correct the informality cited on page 2 of the Office Action.

At least in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that pending application is in condition for allowance and request that a Notice of Allowance be issued in due course. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned directly if such contact will expedite the prosecution of the pending claims to issue. In any event, any questions that the Examiner may have should be directed to the undersigned, who may be reached at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,

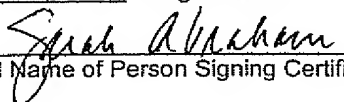


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**CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION  
UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted electronically to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on August 11, 2006 using the EFS:

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Date: Aug. 11, 2006